

The Road to Damascus: Lesson 1

SuperTruth: No matter what I've done, God can save me.

SuperVerse: *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*

1 Timothy 1:15 (NKJV)

Bible Story: Acts 9:1–19

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Our Superbook story will show us that no matter what someone has done, God can save them! Jesus came into the world to save sinners! There is no sin that is so big that Jesus can't forgive it.

- Select a video to have playing as children enter the Large Group room. Videos are under Resources on the top menu bar.
- Superbook takes Chris, Joy and Gizmo to meet Saul of Tarsus, who is on his way to persecute Christians in Damascus. The children witness Saul's miraculous conversion, healing, and baptism before he must escape persecution himself.

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Road to Damascus (15 minutes)

Objective: Explore the Superbook story with an obstacle course.

- Can you imagine suddenly going blind and not being able to finish the journey you were taking? The men with Saul had to lead him by the hand the rest of the way! We're going to act as if we are Saul and his companions walking to Damascus.

Game Instructions:

- Divide the group into two teams. Teams will play at the same time—each on a separate obstacle course. Blindfold the first player from each team and start the game. The second player on each team will lead the first player by the hand.

Teaching: New in Christ (15 minutes)

Objective: Make New Name Tags.

- In Bible times, names had specific meanings. Saul became known as Paul soon after God saved him. Saul was Paul's Hebrew name. After he became a Christian, he was known by the Roman version of his name, Paul. This helped him minister more effectively to those who weren't Jewish.

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)

- Point to the characteristics you wrote on the board. Tell the children to choose one characteristic each that they would like to have evident or working in their lives.
- Children make new name tags and discuss how they might display the characteristic they chose.

SuperVerse: Phrase Erase (5 minutes)

Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.

- Paul believed that he was one of the worst sinners because he had wanted to hurt Christians and stop the Gospel. Paul knew that since Jesus saved him, the Lord would save anybody!
- Say the verse together as a class two times. Hold the sheet of paper over a key word of the SuperVerse and ask children to raise their hands to identify the covered word. After doing this for several words, erase two or three words at a time and ask the children to identify the missing words. Continue until all the words have been erased and then try to say the verse from memory.

Prayer: Friend Prayers (5 minutes)

Objective: Communicate with God.

- Saul did not believe that Jesus was God's Son until he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. Let's focus our prayers today on our neighbors and friends who live on our road or street.
- Let's pray that they will meet Jesus, and He can turn their lives into something brand new.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

Clue Game: Hunt for clues to Saul's journey to Damascus. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Coin Object Lesson: Demonstrate how God makes us new again. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Heart Object Lesson: Discuss our new life in Christ. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

Bible Study: Learn about God's grace by discussing the famous hymn. | **Grades 4–6** | 10 min

Game Materials Needed:

- Two blindfolds, sleep masks, bandanas
- Poster board
- Objects to make two obstacle courses, such as chairs, tables, trash cans, brooms, and boxes—make sure they are safe, with no sharp edges
- Scissors
- Marker
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Teaching Materials Needed:

- New Name Tag Pattern
- Chalkboard and chalk, or whiteboard/poster board and markers
- Optional: adhesive backed magnets, business card type
- Scissors for children
- Pencils or washable markers for children
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Chalkboard and chalk, or poster board/whiteboard and marker
- Half sheet of paper
- Bible or the Superbook